

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1380

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Carl Jones of Unicoi County for his contributions to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Carl Jones of Unicoi County, a highly respected member of his community who has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, born on June 25, 1938, Carl Jones is the son of Richard and Bessies (Bell) Jones; he attended the local public schools and served as treasurer of the Erwin FFA Chapter from 1954 to 1956; and

WHEREAS, honoring his father's request to take care of his mother after his father passed, Carl Jones worked diligently in several jobs as a young man; he served as a postal carrier and part-time farmer, growing tomatoes, strawberries, hay, and tobacco and raising cattle; and

WHEREAS, while working as a postman, Mr. Jones met his lifelong friend and future business partner, Buckley Church; the two partnered together in 1975 to establish Jones & Church Farms, Inc., first growing 150 acres of tomatoes and strawberries and later expanding to include pumpkins, green beans, and corn; and

WHEREAS, today, Jones & Church Farms, Inc., is now a third-generation farm operation, with the children and grandchildren of both gentlemen involved with the business, which employs 210 individuals seasonally and mainly produces fresh market tomatoes; with

more than 600 acres in production, the company produces 1 million twenty-five-pound packages annually that ship across the nation and globally; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of the agricultural industry of Tennessee, Carl Jones has served on a number of agricultural boards, including the Unicoi County and Washington County Board of Directors, the Unicoi County Soil Conservation Board, the Unicoi County Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Tennessee Farm Bureau Fruit and Vegetable Commodity Board, the American Farm Bureau Labor Board, and the Farm Credit Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, a community leader, Mr. Jones was a founding member of the Unicoi Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the Unicoi Water Department, where he served as a water commissioner for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones is a faithful member of the Unicoi County Republican Party, a lifetime member of Unicoi United Methodist Church, and a member of the Unicoi Ruritan Club and the Unicoi County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, he has generously shared his time and support with a number of charitable and community organizations and programs, including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Shriners, Relay for Life, Unicoi County High School FFA, 4-H, and numerous youth athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Carl Jones enjoys the love and support of his wife of more than sixty years, the former Sue Sanders, and their daughter, Renea, their grandchildren, Nick and Laura, and their great-grandson, Marsh; and

WHEREAS, Carl Jones epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly acknowledge and applaud Carl Jones for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Carl Jones for his lifetime of contribution to his community and the State of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.